# Mobile Food Vending Pushcart Rules and Regulations

## I. Purpose

The purpose of these rules and regulations is to protect the public health, safety, sanitation, and general welfare of its citizens.

## II. Authority

A. Pursuant to the authority granted under Chapter 573, the Director of Building and Zoning Services hereby adopts, establishes, and publishes these rules and regulations to be effective at the earliest time allowed by law.

B. These rules and regulations supersede all previously promulgated rules and regulations for temporary commercial zone permits, and are applicable to public right-of-way, and city-owned and operated public parking facilities.

## III. Pushcart Standards

A. The use of generators or power cords upon pushcarts is prohibited.

B. The braking mechanism on a pushcart shall be affixed in such a manner that it is not readily removed. The use of ropes, chocks, wood, or any other material as the sole braking mechanism is prohibited. Each braking mechanism must be a solid rubber or pneumatic swivel caster, with a total lock brake attached that prevents wheel roll or swivel.

C. Dropdown sideguards must be secured to unit and must be in closed position during any transit.

D. With the exception of merchandise or food items to be sold, pushcarts presented for inspection shall be exactly as they will appear when operating on a public right-of-way, including any food rack.

E. No modification shall be made to a pushcart that violates any health or safety regulation or law.

F. Umbrellas, canopies, or other covers used on a pushcart shall be clean and well maintained, with no holes or tears. Pushcart owners shall have five (5) days to comply with this requirement when it is necessary to replace, repair, or clean an umbrella, canopy or cover.

G. Pushcarts shall be maintained in such a manner that prevents the spilling or splattering of grease, water, or food on any public right-of-way where the cart is placed during operation and before that space is vacated. Trash, litter, or debris, including but not limited to wrappers or packaging materials, shall be removed from any public right-of-way where the cart is placed during operation and before that space is vacated.

H. Unsecured menu boards are prohibited on pushcarts. The measurements of a menu board shall be included as part of the allowable size of the pushcart.

I. One three feet by five feet (3’ x 5’) solid, National Sanitation Foundation (NSF) approved, mat shall be used with the pushcart while in operation or conducting business. No holes in the mat are allowable. The mat shall be placed flush with the pushcart, beneath the food preparation area in such a manner to prevent any food product or grease spillage.

J. Pushcarts shall be clean at all times.

## IV. Pushcart Operations

A. No pushcart shall be left unattended on a public right-of-way for more than thirty (30) minutes.

B. Pushcarts shall maintain a distance of ten (10) feet from a taxi stand, sidewalk elevator, tunnel, fire hydrant, or mailbox.

C. Pushcarts and personal vehicles shall not obstruct in any way a loading zone, telephone booth, traffic control box, fire alarm box, parking meter, any sidewalk fixture or furniture, bus stop, or a legally parked vehicle.

D. Pushcarts shall not obstruct any display windows or doorways of any merchant.

E. When operating on private property, operator shall possess written permission from the property owner and shall provide it to any City officer or inspector upon request.

F. Pushcarts shall not obstruct in any way or interfere with public works or construction projects.

G. Operators shall during the period of selling keep the area within twenty-five (25) feet of that location free from all litter and debris arising, including the litter which arises from actions of customers in disposing of wrapping or packaging materials sold by the owner/operator. When two (2) or more customers occupy overlapping areas, they shall each be jointly responsible for the overlapping areas.

H. Operators shall be responsible for the cleaning and repair of any public right-of-way soiled, stained, or damaged by the placement and operation of their pushcarts. Such cleaning or repair shall be done in such a manner so as to return the area to its original state and shall be at the expense of the pushcart owner. The License Section may conduct an inspection of any such area to determine if the repair or cleaning is satisfactory. Any owner/operator found to cause consistent justified complaints in an area where operating shall be prohibited from operating in that area. This shall include but not be limited to failing to maintain a clean working area, damaging sidewalks or buildings with food products, spilling of grease on the sidewalk, pouring grease into a gutter system or failing to respect the rights of building occupants. Any finding against a pushcart owner/operator shall be made through the process of an investigation.

I. Operators shall not display or advertise any merchandise or services from any utility pole, sign, tree, planter, trash container, parking meter, bridge, newspaper stand, sidewalk fixtures or furniture, portable signs of any type, traffic control box, motor vehicle, bicycle or any other type of motorized conveyance, or any other criteria deemed reasonably inappropriate by a License Officer or police officer, for the public health, welfare and safety.

J. Operators shall not use or store merchandise or services from any box, bucket, cooler, tub, or any other container, table, chair, bench, cabinet, or any other furniture of any kind, racks, dolly, wheelbarrow, grocery cart, baby carriage, stroller, easel, handcart, or any other criteria deemed reasonably inappropriate by a License Officer or police officer, for the public health, welfare, and safety. The usage of a cooler is permissible, but it may not be placed upon the ground.

K. Operators shall not operate from under any skywalk or roof extended over a sidewalk from a building.

L. Operators shall not change propane tanks while resting on any public right-of-way.

M. Operators shall not carry more than a forty (40) pound supply of propane on a public right-of-way and must be manifold to appliances where such supply is contained in more than one tank.

N. Operators shall not operate on any public right-of-way where public safety is jeopardized, as determined by a City of Columbus License Officer, or Division of Police, Fire, or Health Department officer.

O. Operators shall not place any pushcart in any city park, on any public- right-of-way immediately adjacent to a city park, or any property leased from the City without written permission from the operating authority.

P. All owners awarded a space in the reservation system shall acknowledge that they have received and understand these Rules and Regulations and the contained policies regarding pushcart operations in all designated areas.

## V. Penalties

A. Failure to comply with these Rules and Regulations shall be cause for a suspension or revocation of the Mobile Food Vending license.

These Rules and Regulations are hereby approved by the Director of Building and Zoning Services as of January 14, 2025.